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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/855,818	05/15/2001	Gerald R. Malan	UOM0206PUSP	9686

7590 05/04/2005

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EXAMINER

GELAGAY, SHEWAYE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2133

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/855,818

Applicant(s)

MALAN ET AL.

Examiner

Shewaye Gelagay

Art Unit

2133

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-12 and 14-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-12 and 14-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 January 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***DETAILED ACTION***

1. This office action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on January 3, 2005. Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 12 and 14 have been amended; claims 5 and 13 have been cancelled. Claims 1-4, 6-12 and 14-16 are pending.

***Drawings***

2. The objection to the drawings in the first office action is withdrawn.

***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments see page 5-7, filed 01/03/05, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-16 under 35 USC 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view Cox et al. United States Letters Patent Number 6,738,814 and Soha United States Letters Patent Number 4,817,080.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of

Art Unit: 2133

the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 1-4 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox et al. (hereinafter Cox) United States Letters Patent Number 6,738,814 in view of Soha United States Letters Patent Number 4,817,080.

As per claims 1 and 9:

Cox discloses a method for protecting publicly accessible network computer services from undesirable network traffic in real-time, the method comprising:

receiving network traffic including a stream of service requests destined for the publicly accessible network computer services; (Col. 4, lines 16-19; the routing device receives a request for a connection; Col. 5, lines 15-17; receiving a request to establish a communication connection between an endpoint of a public network and an endpoint of a private network)

Cox does not explicitly disclose generating request statistics based on the stream of service requests. Soha in analogous art, however, discloses generating request statistics based on the stream of service requests.(Col. 4, lines 23-31 and lines 37-45)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method disclosed by Cox to include

Art Unit: 2133

generating request statistics based on the stream of service requests. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated as suggested by Soha, (Col. 2, lines 54-57) in order to allow enough statistics of interest to be collected even for the shortest packet independent of the specific information that the user request.

The combination of Cox and Soha teaches receiving network traffic including a stream of service requests and generating request statistics based on the stream of service requests. In addition, Cox further discloses

analyzing the request statistics to identify an undesirable user of the services; (Col. 1, lines 64-67; Col. 3, lines 1-3 and lines 32-35); and

limiting or removing access of the identified undesirable user to the services to protect the services. (Col. 1, lines 58-60; Col. 2, lines 10-12; Col.3, lines 4-29)

As per claims 2 and 10:

Cox and Soha teach all the subject matter as discussed above. In addition, Cox further discloses a method wherein the undesirable network traffic includes denial of service attacks. (Col. 2, lines 59-65)

As per claims 3 and 11:

Cox and Soha teach all the subject matter as discussed above. In addition, Cox further discloses a method wherein the network is the Internet. (Col. 2, line 49)

As per claims 4 and 12:

Cox and Soha teach all the subject matter as discussed above. In addition, Cox further discloses a method comprising generating one or more user profiles from the

Art Unit: 2133

request statistics wherein the step of analyzing includes the step of comparing the one or more user profiles with a predetermined profile to determine the undesirable user.

(Col. 1, lines 64-67; Col. 3, lines 1-3 and lines 32-35)

As per claims 6 and 14:

Cox and Soha teach all the subject matter as discussed above. In addition, Soha further discloses a method wherein the request statistics include connection statistics and service request distributions. (Col. 2, lines 39-45)

6. Claims 7-8 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox et al. (hereinafter Cox) United States Letters Patent Number 6,738,814 in view of Soha United States Letters Patent Number 4,817,080 and further in view of Smith, R. N. et al. (hereinafter Smith) ("Operating Firewalls Outside the LAN Perimeter").

As per claims 7 and 15:

The combination of Cox and Soha teaches receiving network traffic including a stream of service requests where the network is the Internet and generating request statistics based on the stream of service requests as discussed above. Both references do not explicitly disclose of generating request statistics includes the steps of collecting and correlating Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) data from the Internet to obtain the service request distributions. (Page 497, Col. 1, Parag. 2 ; and Col. 2, Parag. 2)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method disclosed by Cox and Soha to include generating request statistics includes the steps of collecting and correlating Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) data from the Internet to obtain the service request

Art Unit: 2133

distributions. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated in order to determine hop count when routing a packet.

As per claims 8 and 16:

Cox, Soha and Smith teach all the subject matter as discussed above. In addition, Smith further discloses a method wherein the step of correlating includes the step of identifying a topologically clustered set of machines in the Internet based on the data and wherein the service request distributions are generated from the set of machines. (Page 497, Col. 1, Parag. 2 ; and Col. 2, Parag. 2)

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO Form 892.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shewaye Gelagay whose telephone number is 571-272-4219. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert Decady can be reached on 571-272-3819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

Application/Control Number: 09/855,818

Page 7

Art Unit: 2133

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shewaye Gelagay   
Examiner  
Art Unit 2133

04/22/05



**GUY LAMARRE**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**